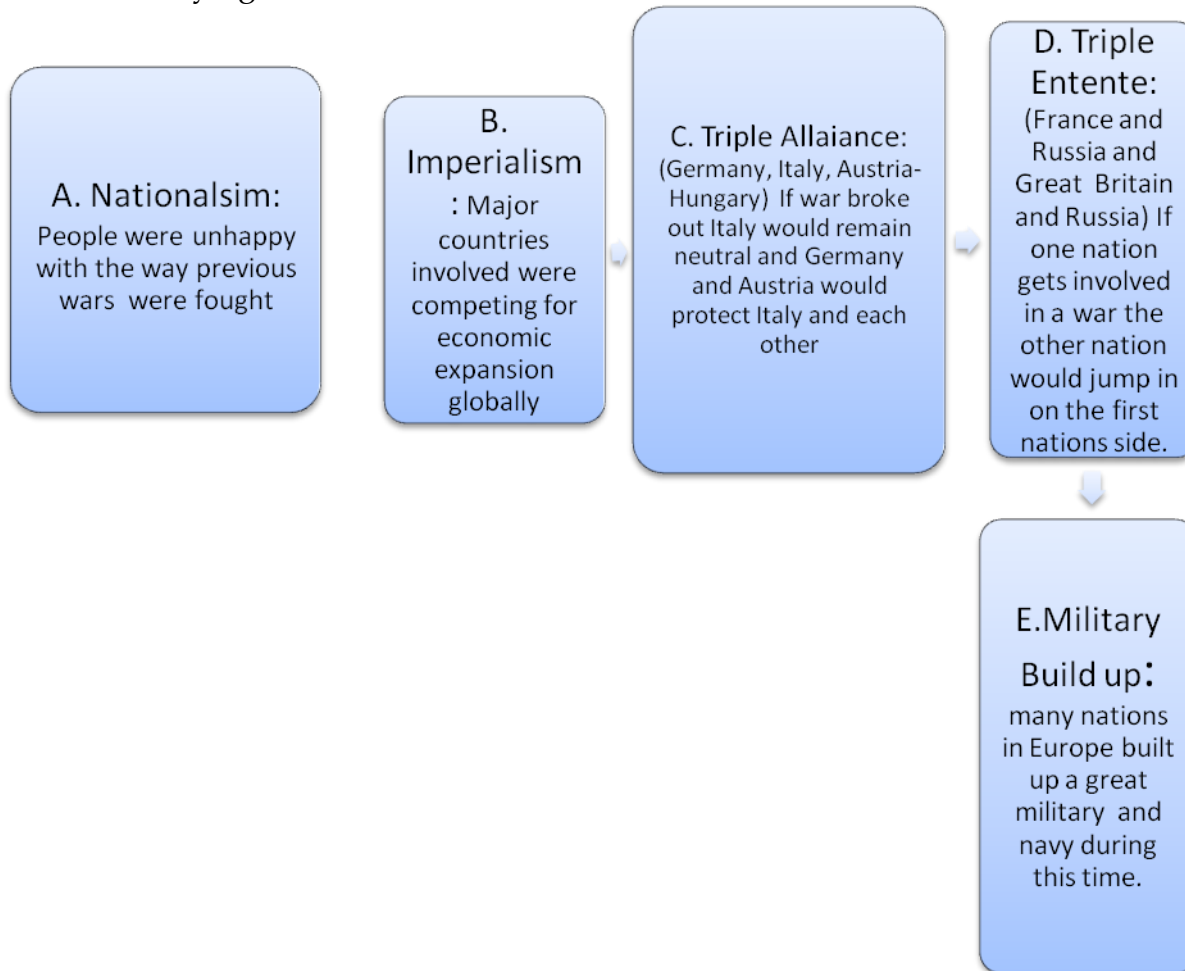
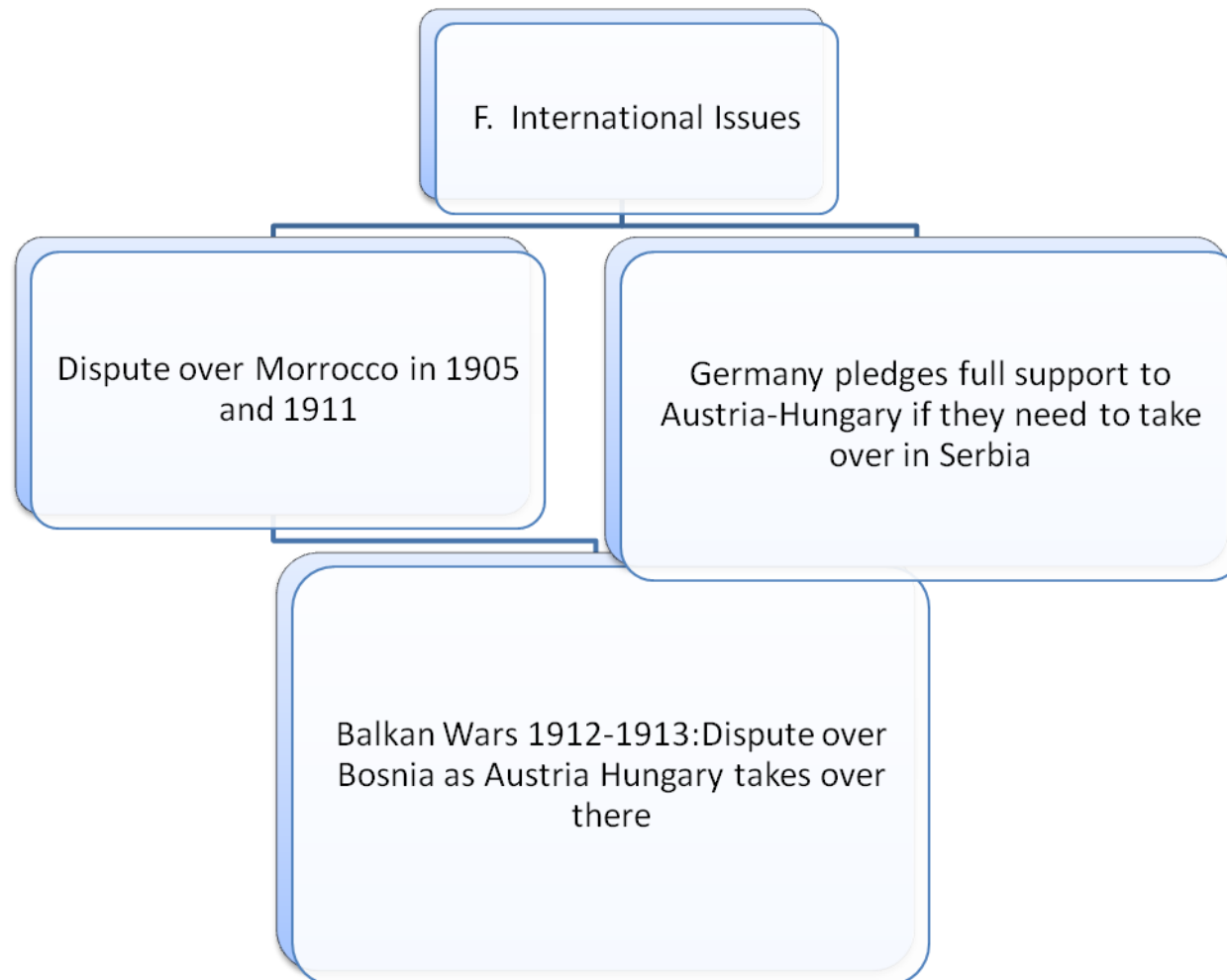


The Great War and America's involvement: 1914-1919

I. Underlying Reasons for the Great War





II. ACTUAL IMMEDIATE CAUSE OF THE GREAT WAR

A. The assassination of this man (and woman). Who is this man?



This is the Archduke Francis Ferdinand, the heir to the Austria-Hungarian throne.

B. June 28, 1914

- C. Serbian National group called the Black Hand planted several men along the parade route for Ferdinand and his wife. Each man failed until the parade happened to pass by a sidewalk café where...
- D. Gavrilo Princip, one of three men chosen by the Serbian Intelligence Agency to attempt assassination of the Archduke, was sitting. When the parade passed by, Princip shot from a range of five feet away hitting the archduke in the neck and his wife in the abdomen.
- E. Austria-Hungary, who was in control of Serbia, demanded very high punishment for this act. Serbia immediately complied but Austria declared war anyhow.
- F. Because of the Triple Alliance and the Triple Entente as well as various other secret treaties and negotiations, War starts in August

- G. As soon as the Austrians declare war on Serbia, Germany jumps in and also declares war on Serbia
- H. Russia (who is an ally of Serbia) declares war on Germany and Austria.
- I. France is an ally of Russia. France declares war
- J. Germany marches through Belgium to take out France (based on the Schlieffen plan of rushing through Belgium to take Paris and thus defeat France)
- K. Great Britain declares war on Germany because they are allied with Belgium (a neutral country) and Russia and France.
- L. Central Powers
 - 1. Germany (Kaiser Wilhelm II)
 - 2. Austria-Hungary
 - 3. Italy
 - 4. Turkey
 - 5. Various others
- M. Allied Powers (aka Entente powers)
 - 1. Great Britain
 - 2. France
 - 3. Russia
 - 4. Italy
 - 5. Japan
 - 6. U.S.

III. The war is on

- A. Sept. 1914:
 - 1. Germany sends troops across Belgium to get to Paris but only get as far the Marne River
 - 2. French and British troops advance and split the German army
 - 3. Three days of fighting, the French almost in defeat are bolstered by new troops carried by Parisian taxi's to the front causing the Germans to retreat back across the Marne
- B. The Eastern Front
 - 1. On Russian border

- 2. Quickly becomes a stalemate
- C. Southern Front
 - 1. Austria Hungary tries three times to invade Serbia
- D. Turkish Front
 - 1. Turkey jumps into the war on the Central Powers side
 - 2. Russia, France, and Great Britain declare war on Turkey
- E. Mustard Gas
 - 1. During battles, Mustard Gas is used to try to defeat the allies.
 - 2. Asphyxiates those in the trenches
- F. Trench Warfare
 - 1. Deep holes dug to avoid being shot
 - 2. Protected by Barbed Wire and mine field
No Man's Land
 - 3. Many layers of trenches so there was always somewhere to fall back to should the first trench be invaded or filled with gas.
 - 4. Often lived in the trenches for years at a time in and out of good weather (dug out places to live in)
 - 5. Full of rats and other vermin
 - 6. 25,000 miles of trenches 6-8 feet deep by 4-5 wide
 - 7. Christmas of 1914
 - a. None of the soldiers wanted to fight
 - b. Soldiers from both sides sang Christmas carols with each other
 - c. Played football together
 - d. Shook hands over the barbed wire etc
 - e. Still did not want to fight the next day but the leaders of both sides made them get back in the war.



Trenches www.gwpda.org





G. Major Battles Before America joins the war (2 samples lots more were fought)

a. Battle of Verdun: Feb. 1916

1. Germans decide to attack French fortress, Verdun
2. 1,000,000 German troops to 200,000 French
3. French are pushed back by the Germans but manage to stop them until May when the Germans manage to defeat France
4. A Second Battle of Verdun will take place later in the war and the French will regain the territory

b. Battle of the Somme

1. French and British work together
2. Because so many French were required to fight at Verdun, turned into a British battle
3. Trying to destroy the Germans and manage to break through the German lines using bombardment
4. Lasted from July to Nov
5. Earliest use of tank
6. 330,000 casualties

c. In 1915, thinking that Germany is losing the battle, Italy leaves the Central Powers and joins the Allies.

IV. Where is America?

A. When Ferdinand was assassinated, America was shocked along with everyone else

B. Woodrow Wilson wanted to be a “moral compass” for the world

- He did not really want to expand the U.S. any larger but wanted to effectively lead the territories the United States already had

C. America was a neutral nation with its own problems

1. Problems with Mexico

- a. President of Mexico is killed
- b. Victoriana Huerta takes over (really ruthless guy)
- c. Wilson refused to extend diplomacy to the new government because of how Huerta became president
- d. Instead, Wilson sent arms to Huerta’s opposition and blockaded Huerta’s supplies

- e. Some American soldiers in Mexico but were immediately released
 - f. Wilson requested permission from Congress to use military force if necessary
 - g. There were a few bloody battles between U. S. and Mexico
 - h. ABC Powers (Argentina, Brazil, and Chile) mediate a truce between U.s and Mexico
 - i. Huerta's rival, Pancho Villa, becomes leader in Mexico and turns against U.S.
 - j. Villa had 18 Americans put to death and then led a raid into New Mexico
 - k. Wilson sent in the military under the leadership of John "Blackjack" Pershing into Mexico
 - l. Pershing and his 11,000 troops were unable to find Pancho Villa so they withdrew
2. Problems in the Caribbean
- a. Wilson does not abide by Roosevelt's "big stick" policy however, he did need to protect the Panama Canal
 - b. Military participated in several conflicts to help Latin American and Western hemisphere nations become/remain a democracy
 - c. Haiti
 - 1. Anarchy in 1914 and 15
 - 2. Wilson, not wanting to lose American lives or risk war in the western hemisphere, Wilson sent Marines in to occupy Haiti
 - 3. Stayed there until 1934
 - d. Dominican Republic
 - 1. Occupied from 1916 to 1924 by Marines
 - 2. Violence by the locals was suppressed by U.S. military
 - e. These and other Latin American nations resented the United States "interference" in their governments

V. How America ends up at war

- A. Reasons why America joins the war (main but there were lots of other incidents that brought us in)
 - 1. Sinking of the Lusitania
 - 2. Zimmerman Telegram
- B. America tries to remain neutral in the European conflict
- C. Wilson's goal was to lead a world at war to "peace without victory"

(President Woodrow Wilson advocated "Peace without Victory" before the war was over in an attempt to stop bloodshed. He knew that if the Allies or the Central Powers were victorious, then they would take the spoils of war from the losers and it would lead to more violence. Wilson preferred for all of the nations to stop fighting with no one side being the victor in the war.)

- D. Impartiality was even harder to get because we were (and still are) a nation of immigrants
 - 1. German, Austrian and Irish had sympathy for the Central Powers
 - *Irish because they were anti British due to desire to rule Ireland for themselves as opposed to Britain ruling them
 - 2. General bond of language, similar culture and some shared history tied the majority of American's to Great Britain
 - 3. Gratitude for French help during the Revolution gave us sympathy for French
 - 4. Many hundreds of Americans went to Canada and enlisted in the Royal army
 - 5. many peace leagues popped up pressuring the president to keep America out of the war
 - 6. strong economic ties with France and Great Britain made the economy boom
 - 7. Allies borrow \$2 billion from American during the course of the war
 - 8. British blockade stops America from trading with the Central Powers
 - a. British warships seized American cargo and refused to allow U.S. to trade with Germany's neutral neighbors
 - b. Britain laid mines in the north sea
 - c. Seized and censored American mail
 - d. Britain was trying to reduce German - American trade while still maintaining a good relationship with American
 - 1. Bought surplus American cotton (that which was going to Central powers and other nations)

2. Compensated American firms for losses due to the blockade

E. U-Boats (Unterseeboats)

1. Typically boats gave some warning when attacking to allow the passengers to abandon ship
2. U-boats lose advantage if they have to come up and give warning
3. Berlin announced that vessels in the British Isles (a war zone) would be torpedoed including passenger ships (some neutral ships were being used to ship weapons)
4. Wilson told the Kaiser that Germany was accountable for any damages done to American boats
5. Germany promises not to sink U.S. Ships

F. The Lusitania

1. British ship carrying some American's (as well as weapons) was torpedoed
 - 1200 Passengers; 128 Americans died
2. Wilson wrote three letters to Germany demanding they stop using submarine warfare, pay the victims, apologize and stop sinking passenger ships
3. Germany agrees but continues to sink ships
4. Wilson tells Germany that if they do not stop sinking American vessels, we would break off diplomatic ties with Germany.
5. 1916 after the Sussex is sunk they issue the Sussex pledge and for a time, American vessels were safe

G. Election of 1916

1. Woodrow Wilson is re-elected on an Anti-war platform
2. Someone created a slogan saying "he kept us out of the war"
3. January of 1917, Germany declared unrestricted submarine warfare regardless of what type of ship you are or what nation you come from if you were in a war zone, you were at risk
4. Sussex Pledge required that America sever all ties with Germany and so America does

H. Zimmerman Telegram

1. In the middle of the problems of the Sussex Pledge, Great Britain intercepts a telegram from the German foreign secretary, Arthur Zimmerman, to Mexico's government

2. Germany would give Mexico guns and money if they would attack the U.S. with them
3. America is outraged; Wilson is outraged
4. Wilson goes to Congress and asks permission to start arming the American merchant ships but they tell Wilson NO!
5. Wilson does it anyway to help protect American interests abroad
6. March 12, 1917, American merchant ship *The Algonquin* is torpedoed and sunk
7. March 15, Russia is in the midst of the Russian Revolution and Czar Nicholas II abdicates
8. April 2, Wilson marches down Pennsylvania Ave followed by a Cavalry division to ask Congress for a declaration of war
 - “The world must be made safe for democracy”
9. April 6, Wilson signs a declaration of war

VI. Realities American's face when going to war

- A. The Allied Power and Central power soldiers lived in trenches for years
- B. Disease, lice, rats and other vermin
 - A cat was left in the mess hall over night to help rid it of rats in the morning the rats were what survived and they found nothing of the cat
- C. Poison gas sent which would asphyxiate a person
- D. Barbed wire on which to get caught and stuck on
- E. 7000 British soldiers died daily
- F. Tanks began to come into use late in the war making it easier to get across no man's land to the enemy

VII. Russia (an Allied Power)

- A. In the midst of the Great War, Russia falls into revolution led largely by the Communists
- B. Vladimir Lenin was the leader. Nov 1917
- C. Sends Leon Trotsky to ask for peace with Germany in December, 1917
- D. Freeing many German soldiers to go to other areas where fighting was fierce

VIII. How to raise an Army

- A. Even though neutral, raising an army was something that they worked on for the entire time of the war
- B. When America declares war, there are about 400,000 men in the army
- C. Due to the problems in Latin America, we had an excuse to build up the army
 - 1. National Defense Act allowed the army to grow
 - a. Called up the national guard
 - b. Increased regular army
 - c. Established an officers training program
 - d. Sent more ROTC to college campus
 - 2. Naval Act of 1916 grew the navy
 - a. 10 battleships
 - b. 16 cruisers
 - c. 67 submarines
 - d. 50 destroyers
 - 3. Selective Service Act of 1917
 - a. All men 21-30 had to register
 - b. Changed in 1918 to ages 18-45
 - c. 2.8 million men were drafted
 - d. American Expeditionary Force (AEF) is “born”
 - American Soldiers were known as “doughboys”
 - e. 200,000 blacks were drafted into segregated units (Jim Crow laws)
 - Some married French women and were told at the end of the war to either stay in France or leave the wife behind because of the racial differences
 - 4. Leader of the AEF was Black Jack Pershing
 - a. “Nous Voila, Lafayette” July 4, 1917
 - b. When arrived in Europe, demanded additional training for his troops so they knew what to expect (how to use a bayonet; the ins and outs of trench warfare)
 - 5. Hooverizing: using backyard gardens and factory assembly lines to help provide food and goods to feed America and send food with the troops
 - a. Herbert Hoover was in charge of the Food Administration

- b. Meatless Mondays, Wheatless Wednesdays
- c. "Food will win the war"
- d. Liberty Gardens allowed for the commercial goods to go to the troops and American's to use their own produce to feed themselves

6. Politics and Patriotism

- a. Because one of the leading enemy countries was Germany there was lots of ant-German sentiment
 - 1. German was no longer taught in schools
 - 2. German measles was now called "liberty measles"
 - 3. German shepherds were called "liberty dogs"
 - 4. Sauerkraut was called "liberty cabbage"
- b. Espionage and Sedition Acts
 - 1. Became a criminal offense to criticize the war effort in any way
 - 2. German spy plots resulted in paranoia and hysteria
 - 3. Schenck v. United States :supreme court ruling saying that Congress could limit free speech during war times if the speech was dangerous to American interests
- c. Conscientious Objector: person who refused to fight on moral or religious grounds

IX. More warfare

- A. Germans attempted to take advantage of the Russian situation to send those German troops on the Russian front quickly to areas controlled by the French and British before the Americans were in the mix
- B. Second Battle of the Somme and the Second Battle of the Marne were both attempts to take over Paris
- C. At the Marne, Americans joined the fray and stopped the Germans at Chateau Thierry
 - 1. 10,000 American casualties
 - 2. Helped push the Germans back toward Germany

3. Argonne Offensive:
 - a. Argonne Forest was also an area many American were sent
 - b. 47 days against 47 German divisions
 - c. Corporal Alvin York of Tennessee, killed 25 Germans and captured 132 more in one battle
 1. Given the Croix de Guerre with Palm by the French
 2. Given Congressional Medal of Honor
 - d. 1.2 million troops involved in the battle of Argonne Forest
 - e. 117,000 American casualties
 - f. Turned the tide of the war into the Allied favor
- D. As American, French, and British troops were driving Germany back, Kaiser Wilhelm abdicated and went to Holland
- E. Negotiations for the armistice began
- F. Germans gave up arms (including all above and underwater boats) and all allied territory they still possessed
- G. Fighting officially ceased on November 11, 1918 at 11:00 a.m.

X. The end of the War

- A. 37.5 Million military and civilian casualties (8.5 million dead)
- B. 261,000 American casualties
 - 50,280 dead to combat
 - 57,000 died due to influenza
- C. Treaty of Versailles
 1. Wilson was first U.S. president to meet with other heads of state
 2. Allies wanted Germany and other Central Powers to pay for damage of war
 - \$33 billion
 3. Germany was to disarm and not allowed to rearm
 - Forced at Bayonet point to sign a “war guilt cause” stating they were responsible for the war
 4. The Big Four: some seeking peace and some seeking revenge
 - a. President Wilson
 - b. France’s President Clemenceau
 - c. Italy’s Premier Orlando

- d. Britain's Prime Minister David Lloyd George
5. Wilson's Fourteen Points
6. Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919
7. After all Wilson did to achieve peace and get the League of Nations started, U.S. Congress refused to ratify the treaty
8. Wilson had a stroke and in the months that he should have been convincing America to pass the treaty he was bedridden
9. The treaty never did pass and Congress signed a resolution in July 1921 officially ending American involvement in the Great War

During World War I soldiers died at the average rate of about *6,000 per day for 4 years, 3 months*. There were also nearly 10 million prisoners.

TOTAL COSTS: 10,000,000 Killed, 20,000,000 wounded + several million civilians. Total dead = 14,667,443. COST: \$180 BILLION direct, 151 BILLION indirect. Long-term, psychological damages incalculable.

The war made massive economic planning necessary—massive industrial mobilization was necessary to support the war effort. Rapid inflation and severe economic impact were results—huge national debts caused higher taxes for years. Severe morale problems arose among civilians. For much of the war rigid censorship was imposed, and people at home first began to realize the impact of the war when trainloads of coffins and cars filled with thousands of wounded soldiers began to arrive at the terminals in Berlin, Paris and London.

As horrible as it was, the conflict would be resumed two decades later.